



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

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THREE HUNDRED

This is the three hundredth edition of the Balmain Association's newsletter. While not as important as the 40th Anniversary of the Balmain Association last year it is nevertheless worth mentioning and comparing with Vol. 1 No. 3. As we have been showing in recent issues, it is the energy, artistry and enthusiasm of the founders of the Association that should be celebrated. One of the things missing in the newsletters over more than a decade is the drawings of buildings that were a feature of early newsletters: they seem to have decreased in inverse proportion the number of cars in Balmain! It would be good to think that issue number 300 is one hundred times better than issue number three. While the technology available between the third and three hundredth edition has been markedly improved, the artistry illustrated below in the reproduction of the first page of the third newsletter, has not. Do we have any artists interested in contributing to future newsletters, or have these skills been lost? You never know, if we had more sketches in future it might result in less vehicles, or at least stem the increase.



ASSOCIATION TAKES UP SOME IDEAS.

In the previous issue of The Observer there were suggestions from Balmain Association members on what the Association should be concerned with. The Association's Committee has resolved to consider some of these:

Ask Leichhardt Council to establish a "Citizen's Advice Bureau" to help residents and visitors with matters such as tourist information, restoration of buildings, development issues, health and welfare, historical material, plants/gardening and the like. While Leichhardt Council provides space for information brochures in the Library sometimes a person is more helpful. Any volunteers?

Issue "Certificates of Commendation" for residential buildings whose facades are considered to compliment the Balmain streetscapes.

Encourage Balmain Association members to use the Watch House for meetings and other activities such as amateur music making.

Reduce visual pollution by promoting an appreciation of buildings and streetscapes, limiting the size/prominence of signage and advertising and better maintenance of street name signs.

Put a proposal for moveable seats (as in the Botanical Gardens) in parks to assist enjoyment of views, conversation and sunlight/shade. Council has already flagged that seats are to be provided at the end of Punch Street overlooking Cockatoo Island and below the cliff.

Organize an exhibition, *Balmain Through Younger Eyes*, of photographs of Balmain under various themes, taken by Balmain school children. It is planned for the exhibition to be held in the Watch House in December and January.

In This Issue

Page 2 Tom Uren talks to Ruth Macleod about life, the universe and Balmain.



Page 3 Proposed heritage amendments in Leichhardt by Val Hamey and some comments on appropriate building facades.

Page 4 The floating crane, *Titan*, is modelled and remembered by Tom Hughes, and Clive Abbott looks at water conservation in home and garden.

Page 5 Kate Grenville reviews Carol Hungerford's book, *Good Health in the 21st Century*; Issy turns 90; and your suggestions for the naming of the park at Ballast Point.

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The AGM will be held in the
Watch House at 6pm on
Wednesday 3 October.
Members are encouraged to
attend. Refreshments will be
provided.**

TOM UREN

On a very wet June day this year, one of Balmain's most revered inhabitants, Tom Uren, gave an interview to the *Peninsula Observer*. Born in Pashley Street in 1921, he grew up during the Depression. "Class attitude" was part of his inheritance, and started him on a quest for social justice. He recalls stories about the landlord coming to the door to say "Mrs Uren, is there anything else you can pawn to pay the rent?" And in those days, if you wanted to get any welfare, you had to go before the nice people of the community to see whether you were worthy. That's never left me: my mother had to go to plead for money." Tom believes there are still "two Australias". His father was out of work much of the time, but got some employment by using his carpentry skills to fix up houses owned by a landlord in Harbord, so the Uren family moved there when Tom was five. Tom continued to visit his aunts and uncles in Balmain, and if ever a doctor was needed, to attend Balmain Hospital, where poor people could queue up on the hard wooden benches for free treatment.

Tom joined the army in 1939, and was sent to Timor in 1941. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942, and worked on the Burma-Thailand railway under Weary Dunlop. He was a prisoner in Japan when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. After the war, he worked in retail, and by the early 1950s got the job of store manager for Woolworths in Lithgow. It was there that he became active in the ALP. Tom was elected to the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1958 as the member for Reid. He served under Whitlam from the Labour victory of 1972 to the dismissal in 1975. During these years, he was minister for Urban and Regional Development. Tom was Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1976. When Labour was returned to office under Hawke in 1983, Tom became minister for States and Territories and then minister for Local Government. He went to the backbench in 1987, and retired from parliament in 1990. Always on the left within the ALP, Tom relied on his grassroots popularity to survive over thirty years of factional jostling and leadership changes.

In 1983, Tom came to Balmain to look at a house for sale in The Avenue. It was already sold, but he took a walk round the corner and saw a block of land for sale in Gilchrist Place. "I went up to the agency and said 'How much do you want for that land?' He said '115 thousand'. I came out to my driver, and I said 'It's too much for me', and my driver said 'Go back in and offer them 90 thousand'. He was not only my driver, but he was the union delegate! So I went back in and offered 90 thousand and within a week I got a message to say they'd sell it for that." So, Tom had a house built to a design by Rick Le Plastrier, and moved in 1988.

Over the last twenty years, Tom

has given his support to many local causes. Looking from his home across a grey and choppy Mort Bay to the Caltex site, where demolition is progressing to make way for the new public park, Tom was asked what he knew about how the Carr government suddenly decided to champion the cause to save Ballast Point. Tom said he had lobbied ministers Knowles and then Refshauge to dissuade them from trying to overrule Leichhardt Council's unwavering position that it would not change the zoning from industrial to residential. It's well known that the zoning stalled the developer for many years. According to Tom "Ultimately, it was Keating that got to Carr. I give a great deal of credit to Keating. He sees the park as an entrance to coming up the harbour, with Ball's Head on the other side. He's a visionary, Keating." Asked how Keating, retired from politics, could have had sway with Carr, Tom replied "Well, Keating is a powerful individual. He's a persuasive bugger!"

Tom is a great believer in the influence of leaders. When he talks about politics, from Council level to the international stage, Tom names people he believes are making a difference. "Bob Brown is one of the great men of this country, but not to say the Greens are the great party. Bob Brown has got Mandela running through his veins. There's a great opportunity that Peter Garrett can be a similar character. Anthony Albanese, spokesperson for the Labour party on the environment, he's magnificent, and that Tanya Plibersek, she's a gem. There are individuals that have got real spirit and there's hope for the future."

In "retirement", Tom is still promoting his ideals through public speaking, and he is working on another book. "The four great challenges we've got are: first, the question of equity, which deals with employment, education, housing, transport and all those things; second, racism, both personal racism and also nation to nation; third, is war and peace. I've always been an optimist on the war and peace question, until Shimon Peres was beaten by Netanyahu in the Middle East, and that's never progressed since, and since of course Bush became president of the USA. But you can see the glimmer again, the glimmer of hope coming through; and fourth is the environment and climate change. And the most serious one of all is the final one." Tom was an early convert to the environmental cause, and though he never got the environment portfolio, he promoted conservation of natural and historical heritage in Urban and Regional Development. Tom distilled two principle ideas from the American biologist Barry Commoner: "One, everything is connected to everything; and two, everything has got to go somewhere".

Although the news on the environment seems to get worse and worse, and the Labour party, languishing in opposition, hardly seems to be stepping up to the challenge of saving the planet, Tom

remains an incurable optimist. "Of course I'm optimistic! Why be pessimistic? What? You're giving your life away if you're miserable. I'm not miserable at all! Look at this!" (sweeping his arm over the harbour below his deck) "I've got the world! And I'm not a wealthy man. I've got a good pension, but beyond that, nothing else, never taken – what do you call it – money to give advice or anything like that. I get a pension. The people pay me, so why do I need to be bribed up and influenced by outside forces? I'm an independent individual. I don't have to bend the knee to anyone, never did." He says, "There is no progress in hate. Hate eats you away. It diverts you from what you want to do!" He rejects the negativity of people like Latham. "You've got to have faith in tomorrow, you've got to have faith in people, and you've got to talk to the collective spirit, not the individual, not the individualism."

Tom's views apply at local level too. "I don't think we should overdevelop Balmain. We should probably be a bit more communal. I know a lot of people criticise Council for slow progress [on development applications]. We should have more patience with our Council, and maybe more assistance with it. And good people standing for Council... A cross-section of people should get involved." Asked about the impact on Balmain's character of its new prosperity, Tom expressed his feeling that the suburb has not become like other affluent parts of Sydney. "It's still a good social mix. I use public transport all the time, and I talk to people of all strata. They all seem to know me and I get into dialogue with them. People are not going to just be Labour. If a candidate is a good Labour candidate, she'll get their vote, or a good councillor, but otherwise, no, they'll go for the best candidate. There are some people of course, the old guard, will still vote Labour no matter what. But on the whole I find that new people who come into our area are enlightened people. They're concerned about world affairs, about the environment, about their children's education, and other people's education." But aren't the residents of Balmain these days pretty similar to those of Mosman or Vaucluse? "Chalk and Cheese! Balmain still has that social mix. For example the public housing units that were done here are still here, and they intermingle with the community and the community accepts them. I just think the place has got great spirit. A lot of people bounce off me. Giving and serving the human family is the greatest achievement you can create. And when you walk down the street, it's the warmth in people's eyes and people's faces. I say Packer can never buy it with all his millions."

Ruth Macleod

Tom Uren: A new book, "*The Fight – a portrait of Tom Uren*" by Martin Flanagan and Tom Uren is to be published in October.

Ed

Retention of Contributory Heritage

Leichhardt Council is proposing an amendment to DCP 2000 dealing with retention of contributory heritage to prevent the demolition or unsympathetic alterations to buildings that contribute to the heritage of Leichhardt's built environment. At the public meetings on the heritage review by Godden Mackay Logan there were objections to the recommendations that all pre-1939 buildings should be preserved. The amendment attempts to give more flexibility to the demolition controls without prejudicing their effectiveness.

The Leichhardt LGA contains a unique collection of suburbs that represent the early development of the City. Most buildings within the Heritage Conservation Areas, usually those built before 1939, represent the history of the Leichhardt LGA in diverse ways. The Suburb Profiles detail the specific built elements that contribute to the significance of each Conservation Area. The buildings comprising these elements are deemed to be contributory heritage. Definition of "contributory significance" is frequently misunderstood.

For the purpose of the amendment's control, contributory heritage is taken to be essential to retain an area's significance; they are the link between the present and an area's history. They are buildings, sites and site features within a Conservation Area that contribute to the heritage significance, in part, because of their age and integrity. They do have a collective significance and their demolition would erode the heritage significance of the area as a whole. Council's controls aim to retain contributory items in their significant form. These items may be altered provided that the work does not reduce their significance.

The amendment states that all buildings within the Conservation Areas of Leichhardt LGA should be considered to be 'contributory heritage' and their demolition (in whole or part) is discouraged unless proven otherwise by an investigation commissioned by the Council, or as a result of an independent investigation (as part of a development proposal on behalf of an applicant) that is subsequently supported by Council.

The Council terms of criteria for the survey include:

Heritage significance – including history and social significance, the degree of intactness or originality of form, materials, detail, or fabric that may contribute to the established character of the Conservation Area, or which may demonstrate part of the history.

Streetscape value – whether demolition of the building will demolish the streetscape in aesthetic or historic terms.

Amenity – whether the building is substandard in terms of occupational amenity in ways that cannot be easily remedied; and

Structural condition of the building – whether there are significant

irredeemable structural reasons for allowing demolition. (Note: As structural failures can usually be remedied this is not normally grounds alone for allowing demolition).

Successful acceptance of demolition poses the problem of the contributory replacement. It has been said that this means a copy would be needed. However, intelligent design could produce a modern building sympathetic to the surrounding streetscape. Some of the examples that have been erected recently have been clearly unacceptable in term of heritage values.

Val Hamey

Appropriate Facades for Balmain

There has been much discussion recently about heritage issues and many questions raised. What should we preserve and how should we do it? Should we try to retain some of the streetscapes in the vicinity of heritage-listed buildings? What buildings should be destroyed, if any? What should replace what we demolish? What does the community think are acceptable designs for new buildings?



Photo 1

In previous issues of The Observer there have been articles on development issues. As part of the same work, a survey was undertaken on the perceived appropriateness of facades of houses, in an endeavour to find out whether there is any unanimity of opinion on what are appropriate designs for new buildings in Balmain, and if so, are there recognizable characteristics of designs which are more preferred than others. The results of this survey, which are reported below, have relevance to the heritage questions above.

David Liddle took photos of 30 dwelling facades, for use in the survey. The photos were shown to residents and non-residents of Balmain to get their opinions of what were appropriate facades for this area rather than in a particular street or near a heritage listed building, so the survey has obvious limitations. Subjects were asked to fill out a short questionnaire and to place 10 of the 30 photos in each of the following three categories:

- The most suitable buildings for Balmain
- The least suitable buildings for Balmain
- The middle, or remaining, buildings

There were 50 respondents in the survey of whom 29 were female and 21 male. There were three respondents under the age of 30, nine between 30 and 45, twenty-two between 46 and 60 and sixteen over 60 years of age. Thirty-two of the respondents lived in Balmain and 18 lived elsewhere. Of the 32 who lived in Balmain one had lived in Balmain for less than 4 years, six from 5 to 10 years, nine from 11 to 20 years and sixteen for more than 20 years (one of whom had lived in Balmain for 84 years).

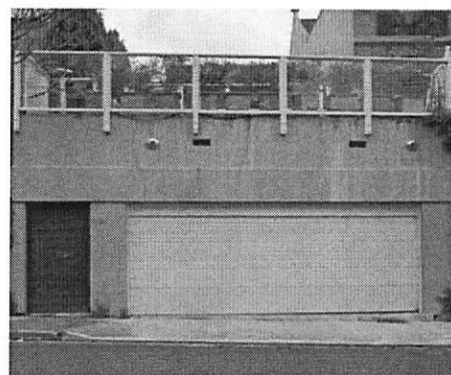


Photo 2

There were six buildings in the survey that achieved more than 68% positive responses (those which were considered most appropriate for Balmain) and there were also six buildings that achieved more than 68% negative responses (those which were considered least appropriate for Balmain). The highest positive response was 94% (photo 1) and the highest negative responses were for buildings shown in photos 2 and 3.

The results of the survey suggest that designs based on traditional housing styles of one or two stories are considered most appropriate (eg pitched roofs, verandas, small or non-existent garages) and that housing which appears more contemporary in style (eg flat or unusual roof shapes, extensive glass areas in walls and dominant garages) is the least acceptable.

While the survey has a number of limitations, the results of the survey would suggest that there is a surprising degree of unanimity on the unsuitability of building designs. In order to make people aware of the views of the community the Balmain Association is planning to issue certificates of commendation to owners of new buildings that are considered by a panel to compliment the streetscape.



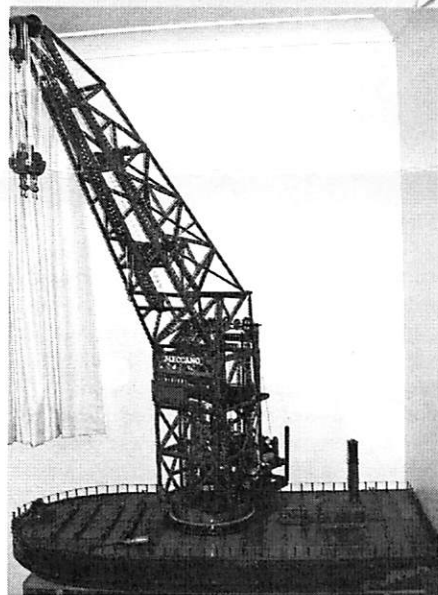
Photo 3

THE FLOATING CRANE "TITAN"

1918 – 1992

SADLY MISSED BY ALL
WHO KNEW HER

Visitors to the, *Industrial Heritage – our working lives exhibition*, in the Watch House in April this year will have seen the superb meccano model of the "Titan" floating crane made by Tom Hughes JP.



Tom Hughes' meccano model of Titan with the ghost of the real Titan working in the background.

Tom has worked on Port Jackson for 43 years, mostly as a master, firstly with H.M. Customs, then for 14 years as a Master at Harbour Lighterage at Glebe, and since 1992 he has been a Master, Inner Harbour

Service, at Sydney Ferries. His interest in Meccano started at about age 10. Since 1980 he has been a member of the Meccano Modellers Association. Tom has always had a sense of history about changes on the harbour and has seen far too many (None in his opinion for the better!!). Tom had considered building the Titan model on several occasions, but thought it too difficult. After Titan's tragic loss on the North coast on Christmas Day 1992, the construction of the model became more important to him. He had always had special interest in cranes generally but the "Titan" was something special. Tom traced the plans to the Australian Archives and was able to get copies. He chose to make the model at 1:40 scale, or about 1 inch to the metre. The model is "fairly accurate". Tom had to make a few parts, mostly rollers, which Meccano didn't make. The model took about 3000 hours to build.

Below is some information on Titan's history that was supplied by Tom.

The loss of the crane "Titan" was a tragedy for all those who marvelled at the wonders of early 20th century technology. "Titan" was assembled from a design tendered by Cowans and Sheldon of Carlisle (on the west coast border of England and Scotland) in 1916. The plans were approved and the parts manufactured by C & S. Many parts were lost on the way to Sydney due to enemy action: the ships carrying them were sunk! Titan was eventually finished, with the most difficult job being the installation of the jib, as it was large and awkward.

The principal dimensions were: barge length: 53m, width: 25 m and draught: 4 m. The jib could reach up to 57m. Power was provided by a steam engine in the barge, driving electric generators. All controls were in the control cabin just below the jib. In

later years a portable generator was hired and used as required.

Titan was commissioned in 1918. There are various references to the wide variety of work that she did from lifting guns ashore at Manly (she was nearly lost crossing the "Heads") to lifting the opening span into the current Spit Bridge (again she was nearly lost off Middle Head). Those experiences should have been a warning!

During World War II Titan worked 24 hours a day. There are photos of her lifting (launching) the 3 "G" class Pilot cutters "Girralong" "Goondooloo" and "G" (Botany Bay) built at Goat Island c. 1956, but by 1990 Titan's work was down to about 6 jobs a year. She lifted the "Taipan" floating restaurant off a ship at 13 Pyrmont and also the paddler, "The Sydney Showboat", on the same morning. She was normally towed by 2 large tugs stern first, as she steered better that way.

Titan changed hands after the demise of Cockatoo Island Dockyard in 1990. She was bought by McKenzie Salvage of NZ, who found work for her in Hong Kong, supposedly on a six-month contract. She was towed out of Sydney by the research vessel "Raphuia", later to be found to be under false papers as was the Mate and Chief Engineer, late in Dec 1992. She sank off Port Macquarie on Christmas morning 1992. According to the investigation that followed, the capsizing and loss was caused by the ingress of about 700 tonnes of water, aided and abetted by the failure to properly assess the stability and dismount the jib to the deck. One main hoisting wire had been removed to provide a towrope while the other had been left with the heavy block swinging at the end of the jib that added to the pendulum effect of the jib swaying in an increasing sea. The jib broke off at the top of the tower at the time of rolling over (She sank some distance to the south of the actual location of rolling over.).

Nature in Balmain

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales & hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd, & host, of
golden daffodills;*

*Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the
breeze.....*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with daffodills.*

William Wordsworth.

For me, this poem captures spring. With an Australian spring on the horizon, water will be my theme for this issue.

I have several clients who have recently installed water tanks. One client

put a 4000 litre tank under their house to service their drip system, water the lawn, clean hard services, and wash the car. It cost \$4200. This included electric pump and all connection costs. Another client utilized a narrow area down the side of their house to install a 1500 litre tank, at a cost of \$1050, including pump and connection. The most interesting case is a Birchgrove local, who is installing a 4000 litre tank to collect rain water to use to flush the toilets. A full tank will do the job for 55 days. Sydney Water offer incentives for installation.

Many of you will have 13mm or 19mm sprinkler systems, which are now banned. These can be easily and cheaply converted, to a highly efficient drip system. Drip systems can be operated on Wednesdays and Sundays as per the Sydney Water regulations.

The most important water conservation measure is to mulch heavily.

First, lay down newspaper, six sheets thick, over all open areas and then cover with 50 mm of woodchip or other type of mulch.

So, there are three things you can do to save water and your garden!

The Leichhardt Garden Competition will be judged in September. LMC will be advertising the competition in the local papers during the next few weeks. You can contact LMC customer service desk for an application. The Parks' Technical Officer and judges from the Australian Horticulture Institute will visit to judge your garden. Then you are in the hands of the gods.

In the next edition I will report on the Ballast Point nature reserve, including issues concerning cats and dogs.

Good gardening
Clive Abbott

Good Health Book Launch

Our grandmothers would approve of this book. They told us that we should eat an orange vegetable every day, and Balmain GP Dr Hungerford does too. The difference between Dr Hungerford and our grandmothers is that she can explain the science embedded in a piece of pumpkin.

She goes further than that – right back to the history of agriculture, where things started to go wrong for an organism that had evolved to hunt and gather. As well as history and science, she brings to this book her considerable knowledge of animal husbandry (she and her husband are alpaca farmers). She found that, when faced with a sick alpaca, the vet would ask “What has this animal been eating?” Her journey towards a wider view of human medicine began with wondering why doctors didn’t ask the same question.

This book, nutrient-dense as a walnut, essentially answers the question “Why isn’t a good balanced diet enough to keep us well?” The answer to that question takes us into the areas of soil science (most Australian soils, and the crops grown on them, don’t contain minerals such as zinc and selenium that are vital for animal health); nutritional supplements (salt licks for humans, really); medical politics (if it’s sometimes as simple as vitamins and minerals, why do we have to buy all those drugs?); the chemistry of food (what is it, exactly, that the beta-carotene in the pumpkin does in our cells?); and looks at some common ailments (asthma, cancer, obesity and more).

Dr Hungerford doesn’t offer assertions but good science, explained in a way the rest of us can understand. She’s a GP of some thirty years’ experience who practices “conventional” medicine, but supplements that with a larger understanding of human health. This is not “alternative” medicine – it’s simply medicine that looks at the whole picture instead of a fragment.

Books about health abound in every bookshop. Many offer a magic bullet that will fix all problems – a special diet, a particular supplement, a cure-all in a capsule. Dr Hungerford’s book offers something different – information

and understanding about the vast interlocking web of health. Armed with that knowledge, we’re in a much better position to make informed choices about the management of our own bodies.

Kate Grenville

Carole Hungerford became a general practitioner in 1975. After working for five years in London she has shared her time during the last fifteen years between her rural practice in Bathurst and her Balmain practice. She has helped educate young graduates for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and she is also a fellow of the Australasian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine.

Good Health in the 21st Century: a Family Doctor’s Unconventional Guide, by Dr Carole Hungerford, Scribe Publications, Melbourne, 2006 528 pages, ISBN 1 920769 811 Price: \$49.95

Issy is 90



Issy Wyner, Leichhardt’s Living Legend, turned 90 recently. Few people recognise him as a member of the white shoe brigade 60 years ago but many remember his contributions to Balmain, Leichhardt and social justice. As Issy said of himself (quoting Thomas Paine), my country is the world and my religion is doing good. Many family members, friends, colleagues and comrades helped celebrate Issy’s extraordinary 90 years (87 spent in Balmain) on 30 July.

Naming of the Park at Ballast Point

In the previous issue of The Observer we asked for suggestions for the naming of the park at Ballast Point. It was also stated that the park was due to be opened before the State election in March next year. Since then the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA), the owners of Ballast Point, have stated that the park will not be ready by March, as earlier planned. The completion date is now scheduled for later next year.

So what names were suggested?

Surprisingly no one suggested “Caltex Park” or even “Lang Walker Park”.

The only suggestion remotely Koorie connected was “Womanly” as it was considered the park’s creation showed intelligence and would be beautiful... and far enough away from Manly.

Political history was represented by “Communist Park of Australia”, “Labour of Love Park” and “Parkes Park”, though there may be some humour creeping in with those as well.

“Bridge Over the Island Goat Park” was about as close to a film theme as we got.

Historically there were suggestions for “Menevia Park” (after the first building on the site) and “Waterview Park” (Mort Bay was originally called Waterview Bay). “Harbourview” was also suggested as was, “Sydney Harbour National Park: Ballast Point Extension”.

In the political/personality/local/historical/federal/environmental category there was, “The Inimitable Tom Uren Park”

“Balmain Theme Park” was in the satirical category we think.

“Ballast Point Park” was by far the most cited suggestion (at least two responses as opposed to one each of the above) of a preferred name. A sensible modification of this name, which would also save on sign-writing expenses, was just, “Ballast Point” which, if there has to be a favourite, is probably an even bet.

What's on at the Watch House

EXHIBITIONS

SEPTEMBER

History Week 16 to 24th September

Find your place in History

Saturday 2, 9, 16 and 23 September

11.30 to 4pm

• Exhibition

Balmain Provides for the Nation

Photographs, items and other ephemera from Balmain and Rozelle industries.

• **Official opening** Friday 15th, 6pm with guest speakers who have worked in those industries.

• **Open Gardens** Saturday 16th September

NB the date has changed from 2 September (as advertised in flyer in last newsletter) to 16th September – happier for the plants!

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

• **Saturday, 30 September, Sunday 1, Monday 2, Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October**

Soul Mates moving on

Denise Barry, Elaine Russell and Deanna Doyle

New work, new directions in mixed media, paintings, works on paper, sculpture and art furniture.

Opening Friday 29th 6pm

• **Saturday 14, Sunday 15, Monday, 16 and Tuesday 17**

10am – 4pm

Birds of a feather Paint together

Five Hawkesbury award winning artists, Ruth Aldrich, Judy Brownlie, Lynette Mitchell, Judith Denning and Jan Maljers who have all painted together for more than 20 years, are staging their Annual Exhibition. Mediums range from oils, watercolours, pastels, mixed media in a variety of styles including landscapes, still life, flowers and life drawing.

• **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22**

'Nailed'

Once again artists from the Sydney Gallery School, Meadowbank will exhibit a range of works including paintings and drawings, contemporary prints and sculpture. This exhibition will be good news for those who attended the 'Hang it' exhibition earlier this year.' The artists involved are Diane O'Dwyer, Heather Kepski, Roma Devjak, Lynne Sung, Carlie Lopez, Josie Reid, Wendy Lowe and Michael O'Keeffe.

Opening night will be Friday October 20.

• **Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October**

"Images of the Islamic World, Ancient and Modern." The images are the photographs of Sheila Brown, Erica Wallace, Peter Wallace and Rosemary Williams taken on their travels through Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco and Syria.

NOVEMBER

• **Saturday 4, Sunday 5 and Saturday 11 and Sunday 12**

10am – 5pm

FIGURATIVE

An exhibition of paintings and prints by Juliet Cohen.

Juliet continues to be inspired by the charm and character of news-

print from the 1920's. Classic still lifes with subtle intrigues, nudes and bolder abstracts.

Opening Friday 3rd November 6.30pm

• **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19**

Strange but Gorgeous

Ten artists will collaborate in this stimulating exhibition. For these artists, all professionally trained, the show will be a culmination of many months of the exacting effort needed in the art of meticulous printmaking. These works on paper will comprise various techniques that make up the printmakers métier including etching, screen printing, lithography and lino-cuts.

• **Saturday 24 and Sunday 25**

10am to 5pm

Recent paintings and etchings

Beverly Filmer and Elke Wohlfahrt.

Opening Friday 23, 6pm - 8.30pm.

DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY

Through Younger Eyes, An exhibition of Childrens' photographs of Balmain.

More details will be given in the next issue of The Observer.

Your Vision for White Bay

Community groups have continued to express concern about current proposals for 24/7 industrial operations at White Bay. A recent joint initiative of the local resident committees has been the conducting of a survey among local residents to determine "your vision" for White Bay.

The results so far indicate that a mix of parkland, recreational facilities and community amenities, including a ferry terminal, are strongly favoured by our community. Some residents favour low-key commercial and maritime activity together with community facilities. Industrial activity is not favoured, particularly 24/7 operations close to residential areas. Most respondents think public access to the foreshore is essential. It has also been noted that what happens at White Bay may well impact on possible future uses for the old White Bay Power Station site.

A weekend "visioning" workshop is planned for August 19 and 20, supported by Leichhardt Council, at Balmain Town Hall. The survey outcome is to be presented at that workshop. Residents will be involved and kept up-to-date on the "visioning" process, and further information forthcoming on the proposals, for this very valuable harbour foreshore area via newsletters, public meetings, and email if requested.

For more information please contact Christina Ritchie, email: chrisritchie01@yahoo.com.au.

The Balmain Association Inc Representing Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle

Our aims are to:

Improve the living, working and recreational amenities of our area; maintain all features having natural, architectural and or historical value of the area and keep a permanent collection of historical interest; seek the cooperation of everyone concerned in the realization of the above.

The Balmain Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at

5:00pm in the Watch House, 179 Darling Street Balmain. The Watch House is open every Saturday from 12:00 – 3:00pm.

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